



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

JOSHUA P. HUNTSINGER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Patricia Beard	Larry Jordan
James Brenner	William Morebeck
Rich Ferreira	John Nitta
VACANT	Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard	

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

August 14, 2017

Members Present: Patricia Beard, James Brenner, Larry Jordan, William Morebeck, John Nitta, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Rich Ferreira, Stewart Perry

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – 7:05 pm by Wayne Vineyard
 - II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR, August 14, 2017 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 10, 2017.** Motion to approve: *Jordan / Nitta / MPUV*
 - III. PUBLIC COMMENT** –
None
 - IV. mPOWER UPDATE** – Alexia Retallack, Marketing and Government Affairs Manager, mPOWER

Alexia gave a presentation outlining the services provided by Placer mPOWER.
Highlights include:

- Services provided for both residential and non-residential consumers
- Loans available at 6% amortized over 20 years
- Employees at mPOWER facilitate communication between consumers and tradesmen, and they work hard to assist consumers in finding plans that work for the consumer.
- mPOWER is looking to help more Agriculture customers

More information: 877-396-7693 or mPOWERPLACER.org

V. ACTION ITEM:

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POTENTIAL UPDATES TO WILLIAMSON ACT POLICY – Joshua Huntsinger, Agricultural Commissioner

Josh handed out a matrix of information gathered based on requests from July 10, 2017 meeting and went over some of the highlights.

Discussion points included more of the same concerns from the July 10, 2017 meeting with public comments thanking the commission for considering this topic and concerns regarding the possible changes and their impacts on certain types of farms. Also discussed parcel splits in detail.

Commissioner Vineyard invites members for a subcommittee of agriculture commissioners and public representatives to clarify potential updates and report to commission at next meeting.

Members are Larry Jordan, John Nitta, Patti Beard, Dan Macon and Joe Fisher.

VI. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- Fowler Nurseries video just released, finishing up cattle video w/Joe Fisher, next up: Timber video – waiting for footage from Lincoln Mill.
- Crop report updated to booklet with full color local pictures
 - October will be Celebrate PlacerGrown Month with many events including the Farm & Barn Tour, which is large enough this year to split tour into two different trails. Crop to Tabletop Dinner at Foothill Roots Farm. Also Machados Apple Festival, Farm Bureau Hoe Down, Placer Conservator Dinner, Auburn Wine and Food Festival.
 - Second Annual “Paint Placer Orange” day in November. More things planned for this year.
 - All Farmers Markets are open.

B. Economic Development Board – Lyndell Grey

- California Main Street Alliance presentation– real effort to improve downtown areas throughout California. Local wines and brews should be featured in local shops possibly revitalizing downtown areas by creating interest and leading tourism to area agriculture.
- mPOWER also presented at last board meeting.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Dan Macon

Dan presented upcoming class offerings at Farm Advisor in Cindy’s absence.

D. Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake

Absent

E. Water Supply Update – Josh Huntsinger

NID report:

- As of August 9, 2017 NID had 228,208AF storage, which is 86% of total capacity and 114% of average, which is approx. 6000AF higher than this time 2016.
- Expected to end irrigation year with above average carry over storage.
- Josh will invite water agency representatives to commission meetings at the commission’s request.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS – Josh Huntsinger

- Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) – no additional finds to date.
 - Quarantine expanded from northern Sacramento County to Sheridan.
 - 40 retail nursery locations affected, working with them to make sure they are compliant with the quarantine.
 - Good media coverage and features to inform the public.
 - Still no commercial growers impacted
- Cannabis on the BOS agenda August 15, 2017
 - Jim Holmes formed workgroup to discuss whether the current personal use only ordinance allows a full range of medical patient access.
 - Workgroup members were industry and non-industry, and met 8 times.
 - Will present to the BOS their findings August 15, 2017.

- Code enforcement now has a 4-person cannabis team operating on a complaint only basis. Written complaint required.
- Winery Ordinance Environmental Impact report should be ready for final approval in spring 2018 following certification of the environmental impact report.
- Vineyard mentioned commercial kitchen and sports complex planned for Placer County Fairgrounds.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT– 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting October 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.